

S A P A N TRIBUNE

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Dedicated to the Interests of the Marianas

March 28, 1996



April 1 hike unlikely

It's Thursday

Buenas Marianas

News in Brief

War on Drugs • The anti-drug task force yesterday made public its strategy to battle the rising drug problem in the CNMI. See story on Page 3.

DUI Busters • Police have a new weapon against drunk drivers. See story on Page 4.

What's Inside

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Forecast: Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 25 mph. High temperature in the mid-80s. A small craft advisory remains in effect for around all islands.

Sunrise is at 6:31 a.m.

By DAN PHILLIPS

One of the most important actions taken by the Senate yesterday was its decision not to act on proposed legislation that would increase the Commonwealth's minimum wage on April 1.

A House bill proposing the April wage hike was expected to be on the agenda for yesterday's Senate session, but it was not.

Saipan Sen. Juan P. "Morgen" Tenorio said the senators were apparently "not ready to entertain the wage bill." He said it looked like "either the effective date of the increase will be changed or the bill won't go through."

Rota Sen. Eusebio A. Hocog agreed that the Senate



Tenorio

wanted more time to consider the wage issue before making a decision.

"Personally, I suggested that since some staff employees from the U.S. Congress are expected to visit next week, we should have an opportunity to sit down with them and talk about the wage issue before we



Hocog

make a decision," Hocog said.

"We need to study the wage issue very carefully, and if the reason for seeking an increase

is because the federal government is telling us to do it, I think that is wrong," he said.

The Rota senator said that if the CNMI is going to raise its minimum wage rate, it should do so for the benefit of its own residents, "not because (U.S. Interior Department Insular Affairs Director Al) Stayman tells us we have to do it by a certain time or we may face federal action."

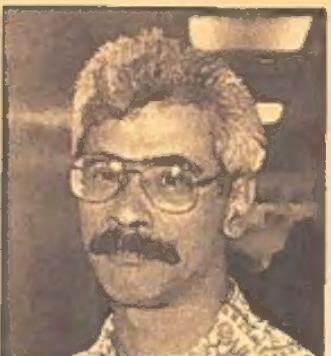
The CNMI's \$2.75 hourly minimum wage was scheduled to increase by 30 cents an hour on Jan. 1, but the Legislature

See April, Page 14

AGO to evaluate criminal cases

By FLOR B. PAMINTUAN

After two 'losses' involving high-profile murder cases, the Attorney General's Office will evaluate the cases to deter-



Aloot

mine in what aspect they failed.

This was revealed by Acting Attorney General Sebastian Aloot in an interview yesterday where he admitted that he was not happy with the verdict on the latest government case against Alvin Camacho.

See AGO, Page 14

U.S. court: Micronesians not aliens

By DAN PHILLIPS

Commonwealth immigration officials were told by a federal judge on Tuesday that they can't treat citizens of other Micronesian island nations as aliens in the Northern Marianas.

U.S. District Court Judge Alex R. Munson made the ruling in a lawsuit that was filed last year by two Micronesian women and their husbands, who are both from Bangladesh, against the CNMI government.

One of the women, Palauan citizen Margie B. Syed, claimed that her husband, Islam W. Syed, had his "non-alien immediate relative" permit changed to an "alien immediate relative" permit by the CNMI govern-

ment pursuant to an immigration regulation that was based on a legal opinion issued by a lawyer from the CNMI Attorney General's Office.

The other woman, Federated States of Micronesia citizen Temsina Ludwig, claimed that her husband, Abdur R. Chowdhury also had his permit changed into an "alien immediate relative" permit due to the same immigration regulation.

According to Munson's ruling, the immigration regulation started with a Sept. 13, 1994, memo sent by Assistant Attorney General Henry Wigglesworth to then-acting Immigration Chief George Camacho.

The memo stated, in effect, that any person who is not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or

"permanent resident" under CNMI law should be deemed an alien.

The memo was then used as a basis for a decision by the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration to "reclassify Micronesians from non-alien status to alien status," Munson stated.

He also noted, "No CNMI government agency or instrumentality ever held any public hearing or otherwise took any steps to inform other Micronesians and/or their non-U.S. citizen spouses that their status had been changed from 'non-alien' to 'alien', and that their spouses' status had been changed from 'non-alien immediate relative' to 'alien immediate relative'."

See U.S., Page 14

INSIDE THE TRIB

Another 3,000 feet of pipeline installed

Six construction projects are well underway from central to south Saipan. In the last week alone, the Governor's Water Emergency Task Force reported that 3,178 feet of new pipeline was successfully installed.

- Chalan Pale Arnold - 312 feet of 16" pipeline installed
- Chalan Monsignor Guerrero - 46 feet of 16" pipeline installed
- Chalan Kiya - 20 feet of 06" pipeline installed
- 1,360 feet of 10" pipeline installed
- Beach Road/Quarter Master - 420 feet of 10" pipeline installed
- Kagman Homestead - 640 feet of 06" pipeline installed
- Quarter Master Road - 380 feet of 10" pipeline installed

As the contractors connect the new pipeline systems, residents may experience minor water outages. Residents are encouraged to contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Division concerning water problems or for more information: 322-9383.

The Task Force continues to install water meters throughout Saipan. Any residents who wants a meter is encouraged to call Preston Fisher at 322-9383.

Privatization pays off for gov't

As part of its program of reorganization, so far this year the Commonwealth Health Center has received more than \$466,000 from its laboratory privatization contract with Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, Inc., according to the governor's office.

In January, CLH paid \$435,295 for the purchase of CHC inventory and equipment as well as space rental for the month. In February, the company paid \$11,958 for February space rental and February and March government housing rental. It has also paid \$11,958 for March' space rental.

The entire sum will be deposited in the general fund account, according to health secretary Dr. Isamu Abraham.



Newly-crowned Miss CNMI Universe Belvelyn A. Tenorio, second from left, was given keys to this brand new 1996 Hyundai Accent from Triple J Motors for winning this year's crown. Also in the photo are Vivian S. Deleon Guerrero, far left, of Moylan's Insurance who provided the insurance, Triple J Motors President Robert H. Jones and NMBPA President Ginny Reyes.

TRIBUNE

Get the news. Get the message.

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Fast Facts

We are a newspaper dedicated to the interests of the Northern Marianas. We pride ourselves on bringing you the best-written, most appealing, intelligent, and thoughtful newspaper in the CNMI. Our news and seasoned reporting covers all the aspects of news, features, opinion and sports.

Readers prefer the Saipan Tribune because our comprehensive coverage of local news brings them all the news that counts the most. Our special features deal with a wide range of topics which are of interest to the community.

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The Saipan Tribune readership is representative of every age bracket, income group, education level, and ethnicity in the CNMI.

- Our readers include all of the CNMI's multi-cultural ethnicities.
- They consist of people engaged in all types of professions: upper management executives, professional and technical staff, rank-and-file employees, office workers and laborers.
- They have had elementary, secondary or college education.
- They recommend the Saipan Tribune to their family, relatives and friends.
- They belong to all age brackets.

No other newspaper has such consistent distribution and such a loyal readership. And, by remaining a free publication, the Tribune's circulation is the widest and most read, because our readers know that all they have to do is reach down, pick us up and bring us home.

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